

Serial No.: 10/800,093

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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 21, line 11, to read as follows:

US Patent No. 6,515,195 discusses the absorbent system employed in the absorbent article according to the present invention, the subject matter of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 12, to read as follows:

Materials particularly suitable for use in the first absorbent layer 846, which the inventors have found contribute to reducing the rewet potential, have a density in the range of about 0.04 to 0.05 g/cc, a basis weight in the range from about 80 to 110 ~~g/m-sup-2~~ g/m², a thickness in the range of about 2 to 3 mm and in particular a thickness of 2.6 mm. Examples of suitable materials for the first absorbent layer are through air bonded pulp sold by Buckeye of Memphis, Tenn., under the designation VIZORB 3008, which has a basis weight of 110 g/m² ~~g/m-sup-2~~ and VIZORB 3010, which has a basis weight of 90 g/m² ~~g/m-sup-2~~.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 1, to read as follows:

In one embodiment, the second absorbent layer 848 is a blend or mixture of cellulosic fibers and superabsorbent disposed in and amongst fibers of that pulp. In a specific example, the second absorbent layer 848 is a material containing from about 40 weight percent to about 95 weight percent cellulosic fibers and from about 5 weight percent to about 60 weight percent SAP (superabsorbent polymers). The material has a water content of less than about 10 weight percent. As used herein, the phrase "weight

Serial No.: 10/800,093

percent" means weight of substance per weight of final material. By way of example, 10 weight percent SAP means 10 $\frac{\text{g}}{\text{m}^2}$ SAP per 100 $\frac{\text{g}}{\text{m}^2}$ basis weight of the material.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 3, to read as follows:

The second absorbent layer 848 can be prepared over a wide range of basis weights. The second absorbent layer 848 can have a basis weight in the range of from about 100 $\frac{\text{g}}{\text{m}^2}$ to about 700 $\frac{\text{g}}{\text{m}^2}$. In a specific example, the basis weight ranges from about 150 $\frac{\text{g}}{\text{m}^2}$ to about 400 $\frac{\text{g}}{\text{m}^2}$.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 7, to read as follows:

Preferably, the basis weight ranges from about 200 $\frac{\text{g}}{\text{m}^2}$ to about 350 $\frac{\text{g}}{\text{m}^2}$ and, more preferably, to about 300 $\frac{\text{g}}{\text{m}^2}$. The second absorbent layer 848 functions synergistically with the first absorbent layer to reduce the rewet potential. The first absorbent layer, having a relatively open pore structure, readily absorbs and disperses liquid laterally within its bulk and readily transfers the liquid to the receiving surface of the second absorbent layer. In turn, the second absorbent layer, having good capillarity efficiently draws liquid into its bulk from the first absorbent layer. Once the liquid has been absorbed into superabsorbent polymer, the liquid cannot be subsequently released by applying pressure. Therefore, the liquid absorbed into the superabsorbent material becomes permanently entrapped. At the same time, the strength with which the second absorbent layer intakes liquid from the first absorbent layer helps to reduce the proportion of liquid held in the first absorbent layer, thereby reducing the

Serial No.: 10/800,093

amount of liquid that returns to the cover layer when the napkin is subjected to mechanical loading. Furthermore, the first absorbent layer has a relatively high capillarity so that any concentration of liquid in the first absorbent layer resulting from mechanical loading can be redistributed within the material to lower concentrations, again reducing the amount of liquid which can return to the cover layer.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 1, to read as follows:

In a specific embodiment, the second absorbent layer contains in the range from about 30 to 40 weight percent superabsorbent material, has a basis weight in the range from about 200 to 400 g/m^2 ~~g/m-sup-2~~ and a density in the range from about 0.2 to 0.45 g/cc.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 5, to read as follows:

One embodiment of the second absorbent layer 848 particularly well suited for use in the sanitary napkin 800 is depicted in FIG. 13. Such second absorbent layer 848 has a basis weight of from about 200 g/m^2 ~~g/m-sup-2~~ to about 350 g/m^2 ~~g/m-sup-2~~ and a density between about 0.3 g/cc and 0.5 g/cc. In a specific example, the density is from about 0.3 g/cc to about 0.45 g/cc and, more specifically about 0.4 g/cc.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 10, to read as follows:

The second absorbent layer 848 depicted in FIG. 13 is air-laid as three strata: a bottom layer of pulp (without superabsorbent) with a basis weight

Serial No.: 10/800,093

of about 25 g/m^2 ~~g/m-sup-2~~ ; a middle layer with a basis weight of about 150 g/m^2 ~~g/m-sup-2~~ and which contains from about 10 to about 30 g/m^2 ~~g/m-sup-2~~ superabsorbent and from about 120 g/m^2 ~~g/m-sup-2~~ to about 140 g/m^2 ~~g-m-sup-2~~ pulp; and a top layer of pulp (without superabsorbent) with a basis weight of about 25 g/m^2 ~~g-m-sup-2~~ . Relative to the total basis weight of the second absorbent layer 848, the level of superabsorbent ranges from about 5 to about 15 weight percent (g-m-sup-2 g/m^2 of superabsorbent per ~~g-m-sup-2~~ g/m^2 material). In a specific example, the level of superabsorbent is from about 7.5 weight percent to about 12.5 weight percent of the material. More specifically, the material contains about 10 weight percent of superabsorbent. Thus, the middle layer of the material could contain from about 15 g/m^2 ~~g-m-sup-2~~ to about 25 g/m^2 ~~g-m-sup-2~~ superabsorbent and from about 125 g/m^2 ~~g-m-sup-2~~ to about 135 g/m^2 ~~g-m-sup-2~~ pulp and, more specifically about 20 g/m^2 ~~g-m-sup-2~~ superabsorbent and about 130 g/m^2 ~~g-m-sup-2~~ pulp. The middle layer containing pulp and superabsorbent can be laid down as a homogeneous blend or as a heterogeneous blend wherein the level of superabsorbent varies with proximity to the bottom layer.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 28, line 3, to read as follows:

In another embodiment, the second absorbent layer 848 is air-laid as four strata. In this embodiment, the middle layer referred to above is replaced with two middle layers; a first middle layer adjacent the top layer and a second middle layer adjacent the bottom layer. Each of the first and second middle layers independently comprises from about 10 to about 30 g/m^2 ~~g-m-sup-2~~ superabsorbent and from about 40 g/m^2 ~~g-m-sup-2~~ to about 65 g/m^2 ~~g-m-sup-2~~ pulp. When it is desired to keep absorbed fluid away from the

Serial No.: 10/800,093

cover layer 842, the amount of superabsorbent in the first and second middle layers is adjusted such that there is a higher level of superabsorbent in the second middle layer. The superabsorbent in the first and second middle layers can be the same or a different superabsorbent.